

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Matthias Eichstaedt and Neelakantan Sundaresan  
 Docket: AM9-98-023  
 Title: A CUSTOMIZABLE WEB FILLER FOR ALLEVIATION OF NETWORK LATENCY AND DELAY

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

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By: Denise Ann Beaubier  
 Name Denise Ann Beaubier

BOX PATENT APPLICATION  
 Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal sheet, in duplicate, containing Certificate under 37 CFR 1.10.
- ☒ Utility Patent Application: Spec. 18 pgs; 26 claims; Abstract 1 pgs.  
 The fee has been calculated as shown below in the 'Claims as Filed' table.
- ☒ 5 sheets of informal drawings
- ☒ A signed Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney
- ☒ Assignment of the invention to International Business Machines Corporation, Recordation Form Cover Sheet
- ☒ Charge the amount of \$922.00 to cover the Filing Fee
- ☒ Charge the amount of \$40.00 to cover the Assignment Recording Fee.
- ☒ Return postcard

**CLAIMS AS FILED**

Number of Claims Filed	In Excess of:	Number Extra	Rate	Fee
<b>Basic Filing Fee</b>				\$790.00
<b>Total Claims</b>				
26	20	6	x 22.00	= \$132.00
<b>Independent Claims</b>				
3	3	0	x 82.00	= \$0.00
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM FEE				\$0.00
TOTAL FILING FEE				\$922.00

Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 09-0441, of International Business Machines Corporation, the assignee of the above-identified patent application. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

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A CUSTOMIZABLE WEB FILLER  
FOR ALLEVIATION OF NETWORK LATENCY AND DELAY

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5     1.     Field of the Invention.

          This invention relates in general to web browsers and servers, and more particularly, to a customizable web filler for alleviation of network latency and delay periods.

10    2.     Description of Related Art.

          Downloading content from the Internet often takes a considerable amount of time and therefore users lose interest in the content itself. The long download time may be due to one or more of the following reasons:

- 15           1.     Web pages that contain large amounts of data (graphics, Java applets, etc.), all of which has to be sent to the client during download.
2.     Slow connections to the server due to heavy network load.
3.     Limited power of computing/communication hardware on the server or client.
4.     Intensive computation performed on the server
- 20           (authentication/authorization in e-commerce applications) before a page can be fed back to the client.

5 It can be seen, then, that there is a need in the art for solutions that helps  
alleviate the problems of long latency or delay periods on the Internet.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

To minimize the limitations in the prior art described above, and to minimize other limitations that will become apparent upon reading and understanding the present specification, the present invention discloses a method, apparatus, and article of manufacture for alleviating problems of long latency or delay periods on the Internet through the presentation of filler content that keeps the user occupied. The cause and extent of the latency or delay may be identified either at a client or server computer and then communicated to the client computer to trigger the presentation of the filler content on the client computer. The filler content may comprise text data, graphics data, audio data, audiovisual data, or other data as desired, and provides just enough distraction to keep the user occupied, while retaining him/her for the completion of the session, transaction, or activity. The filler content may be provided by either a server computer or a client computer, and may be selected automatically by the server computer or the client computer or may be selected manually by the user so that it can be customized based on his/her taste for filler contents. The filler content could also be selected based on predetermined criteria, such as the context of the user's session, transaction, or activity, the data being accessed, etc.

An object of the present invention is to deliver timely content to the user without distracting from other activities being performed on the network. Another object is that the web filler can help users to utilize their time more efficiently, because it uses idle periods of Internet access. Yet another object of the present invention is to enhance the usability of the Internet.

A feature of the present invention is that it can be realized on many current commercial web server products with relatively low cost, because it can be implemented with well-structured extensions to existing software. Another feature of the present invention is that none of the other existing software systems have to be  
5 changed to implement the present invention.

Advantages of the present invention over existing and possible alternatives include the following:

1. The Web Filler is a software solution that can be implemented as one or more additional components in a web browser.
- 10 2. The Web Filler does not cause significant latency or delay for downloading the filler content.
3. The Web Filler helps promote web sites, because a web site that implements the Web Filler should not lose users due to long latency or delay periods. This is particularly important for e-commerce applications.
- 15 4. The Web Filler is fully customizable, both on the client computer and the server computer. It can easily be disabled as required.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Referring now to the drawings in which like reference numbers represent corresponding parts throughout:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an exemplary hardware environment of the preferred embodiment of the present invention, and more particularly, illustrates a typical distributed computer system;

FIG. 2 illustrates a dialog box for customizing filler content according to the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a flowchart illustrating the logic performed by a web browser in client mode according to the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a flowchart illustrating the logic performed by a web server in server mode according to the present invention; and

FIG. 5 is a flowchart illustrating the logic performed by a web browser in server mode according to the present invention.

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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

In the description of the preferred embodiment, reference is made to the accompanying drawings which form a part hereof, and in which is shown by way of illustration the specific embodiment in which the invention may be practiced. It is to  
5 be understood that other embodiments may be utilized as structural changes may be made without departing from the scope of the present invention.

### Overview

The present invention, known as Web Filler, helps alleviate the problems of  
10 long latency or delay periods on the Internet through the use of filler content, wherein the presentation of the filler content keeps the user occupied during the period of latency or delay. The filler content may comprise text data, graphics data, audio data, audiovisual data, or other data as desired.

The filler content is typically comprised of short snippets of data, e.g.,  
15 information or entertainment, that provide just enough distraction to keep the user occupied, while retaining him/her for the completion of the session, transaction, or activity. A good source for such filler content are so-called "web-casting" channels (e.g., PointCast™), quote-of-the-day sites, etc.

The filler content may be provided by either the server computer or the client  
20 computer. Filler content may be selected automatically by the server computer or the client computer, or may be selected manually by the user so that it can be customized based on his/her taste for filler contents.

The filler content could also be selected based on predetermined criteria, such as the context of the user's session, transaction, or activity, the data being accessed, etc.

As an example, when the user views and downloads technical specifications for a product, any latency or delay can be filled with other information about the product,

5 e.g., the price and availability of the product. This is somewhat similar to search engines that display advertisements related to the user's search request.

Because the filler content may be directly related to context of the user's transaction or session, any distraction caused by the filler content is minimal.

Nonetheless, the ability to customize the filler content is important, as surveys have

10 shown that such information as news tickers, advertisements, etc., are very distracting for many users.

### Hardware Environment

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an exemplary hardware environment of the  
15 preferred embodiment of the present invention, and more particularly, illustrates a typical distributed computer system, wherein a network 100 connects client computers 102 to server computers 104. The network 100 preferably comprises the Internet, although it could also comprise intranets, extranets, LANs, WANs, SNA networks, etc. A typical combination of resources may include client computers 102 that are  
20 personal computers or workstations, and server computers 104 that are personal computers, workstations, minicomputers, and/or mainframes.



Each of the computers generally include, inter alia, a processor, random access memory (RAM), data storage devices, data communications devices, monitors, input devices, etc. Of course, those skilled in the art will recognize that any combination of the above components, or any number of different components, peripherals, and other  
5 devices, may be used in the present invention.

In the present invention, the server computer 104 executes a web server 106, and the client computer 102 executes a web browser 108. The web server 106 is typically a computer program such as IBM's HTTP daemon or other World Wide Web (WWW) daemon, and the web browser 108 is typically a computer program such  
10 as IBM's Web Explorer™, Netscape's Navigator™, Microsoft's Internet Explorer™, etc.

In the present invention, the Web Filler is comprised of a content receiver 110 and filler engine 112 executed by the client computer 102. In addition, the Web Filler is comprised of a filler and template repository 114, which may be stored in a memory  
15 or data storage device of the client computer 102.

Generally, the web server 106, web browser 108, content receiver 110, filler engine 112, and/or repository 114 comprise instructions and/or data which, when read, executed, and/or interpreted by the client computer 104 and/or server computer 106, causes the client computer 104 and/or server computer 106 to perform the steps  
20 necessary to implement and/or use the present invention. Generally, the web server 106, web browser 108, content receiver 110, filler engine 112, and/or repository 114 are embodied in and/or readable from a device, carrier, or media, such as a memory,

data storage device, and/or a remote device coupled to the computer via a data communications device.

Thus, the present invention may be implemented as a method, apparatus, or article of manufacture using standard programming and/or engineering techniques to  
5 produce software, firmware, hardware, or any combination thereof. The term "article of manufacture" (or alternatively, "computer program product") as used herein is intended to encompass a computer program accessible from any computer-readable device, carrier, or media. Of course, those skilled in the art will recognize many modifications may be made to this configuration without departing from the scope of  
10 the present invention.

Those skilled in the art will recognize that the exemplary environment illustrated in FIG. 1 is not intended to limit the present invention. Indeed, those skilled in the art will recognize that other alternative hardware environments may be used without departing from the scope of the present invention.

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#### Operation of the Web Filler

As noted above, the Web Filler is generally comprised of three components: the content receiver 110, the filler engine 112, and the repository 114. The Web Filler operates mainly in two modes: client mode or server mode. The same components  
20 110, 112, and 114 may be used in both modes, although their operation may differ somewhat.

In both modes, the content receiver 110 retrieves the filler content from the web server 106 and optionally updates the repository 114. Generally, the content receiver 110 may be implemented as an extension to the web browser 108 or as a stand-alone component. Usually, the content receiver 110 does not download any filler  
5 content while the user is browsing; instead, the filler content is preferably received at scheduled points in time and should not interfere with other activities.

In both modes, the filler engine 112 is responsible for initiating use of the filler content when appropriate and then presenting the filler content. As with the content receiver 110, the filler engine 112 may be implemented as an extension to the web  
10 browser 108 or as a stand-alone component. The filler engine 112 may be triggered by detection of latency or delay periods by the web server 106, the web browser 108, or its own monitoring function. Once triggered, the filler engine 112 does not interrupt the current session, transaction or activity, or the accessing of data in any way; instead, the filler engine 112 presents the filler content while the session, transaction, or  
15 activity continues in the background. Once the session, transaction, or activity is completed, the web server 106 or web browser 108 sends a signal to the filler engine 112 that deactivates the presentation of the filler contents, so that the web browser 108 can again regain control and present the data associated with its session, transaction, or activity.

20 In the client mode, the filler contents are stored in the repository 114 on the client computer 102 and are retrieved therefrom when the client computer 102 encounters a period of latency or delay. Filler contents may be static or dynamic,

wherein dynamic filler contents could comprise templates that are updated with new information at regular intervals (e.g., stock quotes, headline news, etc.).

Presentation of the filler contents by the filler engine 112 is an iterative process. If the presentation of the filler contents completes before a session, transaction, or activity of the web browser 108 completes, new filler contents are retrieved by the filler engine 112 and presented. If the session, transaction, or activity of the web browser 108 completes before the presentation of the filler contents completes, the filler engine 112 terminates the presentation of the filler contents and the web browser 108 regains control.

Server mode differs from client mode in two important ways. First, the presentation of filler contents is triggered when the server computer 104 detects latencies or delays in the session, transaction, or activity. Second, the filler contents are not displayed on the server computer 104 itself, but only on the client computer 102. In the server mode, the same components 110, 112, 114 may be used, except that the repository 114 is optional. In addition, the filler contents may be retrieved by the content receiver 110 from the server computer 104 and then directly passed to the filler engine 112, or the server computer 104 may transmit a message to the client computer 102 that triggers the filler engine 112 to retrieve the filler contents from the repository 114. If the filler contents are downloaded from the server computer 104, it is important that the ratio of transmitted filler contents to transmitted data associated with the session, transaction, or activity is low and does not cause too much additional latency or delay.

The key advantage of operating in the server mode is that the server computer 104 has more knowledge concerning the cause and extent of any latency or delay, and thus may select appropriate filler content and transmit it to the client computer 102 for presentation. Moreover, user profiles for the customized filler contents may either be  
5 stored either on the client computer 102 or the server computer 104 to assist in this selection.

#### Customized Filler Content

FIG. 2 illustrates a monitor 200 of a client computer 102 displaying an  
10 exemplary dialog box 202 that could be used to customize the filler content according to the present invention. Generally, this dialog box 202 is accessed via the web browser 108 or other utility. The dialog box 202 includes a checkbox 206 for enabling and disabling the use of filler content, as well as a listbox 208 for selecting among various categories of filler content. In the preferred embodiment, the filler content is  
15 stored on both the client computer 102 and the server computer 104 according to such categories in order to make retrieval of the desired filler content easier.

#### Logic of the Web Browser in Client Mode

FIG. 3 is a flowchart illustrating the logic performed by Web Filler according  
20 to the present invention, and more specifically, the logic performed by the web browser 108 in client mode.. This logic is described in conjunction with the operation of the Web Filler as being separate from the web browser 108. Those skilled in the art

will recognize that similar logic would be used if the web filler were part of the web browser 108.

Block 300 represents the web browser 108 enabling the use of filler contents and specifying user-customized selections for such filler content.

- 5           Block 302 represents the web browser 108 accessing data on the network 100 as part of a session, transaction, or activity.

Block 304 is a decision block that represents the web browser 108 determining whether the accessing of the data from the network 100 has completed. If so, control transfers to Block 306; otherwise, control transfers to Block 310.

- 10           Block 306 represents the web browser 108 displaying the accessed data. Thereafter, control transfers to Block 308, which terminates the logic.

Block 310 is a decision block that represents the web browser 108 determining whether a predetermined latency or delay period has been exceeded. If not, control transfers to Block 304; otherwise, control transfers to Block 312.

- 15           Block 312 is a decision block that represents the web browser 108 determining whether the Web Filler is enabled. If not, control transfers to Block 306; otherwise, the filler engine 112 is triggered and control transfers to Block 314.

Block 314 represents the filler engine 112 performing the Web Filler function, wherein the filler contents are presented for the user on the client computer 104.

- 20           Block 316 is a decision block that represents the web browser 108 and/or filler engine 112 determining whether the accessing of the data from the network 100 has completed. If not, control transfers to Block 314; otherwise, the filler engine 112 is

disabled and control transfers to Block 306.

Logic of the Web Server in Server Mode

FIG. 4 is a flowchart illustrating the logic performed by Web Filler according  
5 to the present invention, and more specifically, the logic performed by the web server  
106 in server mode.

Block 400 represents the web server 106 waiting for a request from the client  
computer 102, and more specifically, from the web browser 108 request access to data  
on the network 100 as part of a session, transaction, or activity.

10 Block 402 represents the web server 106 processing the request from the client  
computer 102.

Block 404 is a decision block that represents the web server 106 determining  
whether the response to the request, e.g., the response to the request to access the data  
from the network 100, has completed. If not, control transfers to Block 406;  
15 otherwise, control transfers to Block 410.

Block 406 is a decision block that represents the web server 106 determining  
whether a predetermined latency or delay period has been exceeded. If not, control  
transfers to Block 404; otherwise, control transfers to Block 408.

Block 408 represents the web server 106 performing the Web Filler function in  
20 server mode, wherein the filler contents may be transmitted to the content receiver 110  
from the server computer 104 and then directly passed to the filler engine 112, or the  
server computer 104 may transmit a message to the client computer 102 that triggers

the filler engine 112 to retrieve the filler contents from the repository 114. Thereafter, control transfers to Block 404.

Block 410 represents the web server 106 transmitting the response to the request to the client computer 102. Thereafter, control transfers to Block 412, which  
5 terminates the logic.

#### Logic of the Web Browser in Server Mode

FIG. 5 is a flowchart illustrating the logic performed by Web Filler according to the present invention, and more specifically, the logic performed by the web  
10 browser 108 in server mode.. This logic is described in conjunction with the operation of the Web Filler as being separate from the web browser 108. Those skilled in the art will recognize that similar logic would be used if the web filler were part of the web browser 108.

Block 500 represents the web browser 108 enabling the use of filler contents  
15 and specifying user-customized selections for such filler content.

Block 502 represents the web browser 108 accessing data on the network 100 as part of a session, transaction, or activity.

Block 504 is a decision block that represents the web browser 108 determining whether the accessing of the data from the network 100 has completed. If so, control  
20 transfers to Block 506; otherwise, control transfers to Block 510.

Block 506 represents the web browser 108 displaying the accessed data. Thereafter, control transfers to Block 508, which terminates the logic.



Block 510 is a decision block that represents the web browser 108 determining whether filler contents have been received by the content receiver 110 from the server computer 104, or whether a message has been received from the server computer 104 that triggers the filler engine 112 to retrieve the filler contents from the repository 114.

5 If not, control transfers to Block 504; otherwise, control transfers to Block 512.

Block 512 is a decision block that represents the web browser 108 determining whether the Web Filler is enabled. If not, control transfers to Block 506; otherwise, the filler engine 112 is triggered and control transfers to Block 514.

Block 514 represents the filler engine 112 performing the Web Filler function,  
10 wherein the filler contents are presented for the user on the client computer 104.

Block 516 is a decision block that represents the web browser 108 and/or filler engine 112 determining whether the accessing of the data from the network 100 has completed. If not, control transfers to Block 514; otherwise, the filler engine 112 is disabled and control transfers to Block 506.

15

### Conclusion

This concludes the description of the preferred embodiment of the invention. The following describes some alternative embodiments for accomplishing the present invention.

20 For example, those skilled in the art will recognize that any type of computer configuration and/or network configuration could benefit from the present invention.

Those skilled in the art will also recognize that many types of filler content could be used, in addition to those enumerated herein.

In addition, those skilled in the art will also recognize that many types of selection criteria for the filler content could be used in the present invention. For  
5 example, filler contents may be dynamically adjusted based on various criteria, such as a change in the latency or delay, a change in data volume, etc.

Those skilled in the art will recognize that customization of filler content need not take place only on the client computer. For example, in closed environments, where the server computer manages a known and pre-profiled group of users (e.g.,  
10 corporate intranet, shopping clubs, etc.), user-customized filler contents may be generated from and/or stored on the server computer as well.

In summary, the present invention discloses a method, apparatus, and article of manufacture for alleviating problems of long latency or delay periods on the Internet through the presentation of filler content that keeps the user occupied. The cause and  
15 extent of the latency or delay may be identified either at a client or server computer and then communicated to the client computer to trigger the presentation of the filler content on the client computer. The filler content may comprise text data, graphics data, audio data, audiovisual data, or other data as desired, and provides just enough distraction to keep the user occupied, while retaining him/her for the completion of  
20 the session, transaction, or activity. The filler content may be provided by either a server computer or a client computer, and may be selected automatically by the server computer or the client computer or may be selected manually by the user so that it can

The foregoing description of the preferred embodiment of the invention has  
5 been presented for the purposes of illustration and description. It is not intended to be  
exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise form disclosed. Many modifications  
and variations are possible in light of the above teaching. It is intended that the scope  
of the invention be limited not by this detailed description, but rather by the claims  
appended hereto.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1            1.        A method of alleviating problems associated with delays in accessing  
2        data on a network, comprising the steps of:

3            (a) accessing data on a network from a client computer;

4            (b) identifying when a delay occurs during the accessing step; and

5            (c) presenting filler contents on the client computer during the identified delay,

6        wherein the filler contents are customized to a user's taste.

1            2.     The method of claim 1 above, wherein the filler contents are pre-  
2     selected.

1           3.       The method of claim 1 above, wherein the filler contents are selected  
2       from a group comprising text data, graphics data, audio data, and audiovisual data.

1           4.       The method of claim 1 above, wherein the filler contents are selected  
2       from a group comprising static filler contents and dynamic filler contents.

1           5.       The method of claim 1 above, further comprising the step of  
2       automatically selecting the filler content based on predetermined criteria.

1           6.       The method of claim 5 above, wherein the filler contents are selected  
2   based on the accessed data.

1           7.     The method of claim 1 above, wherein the filler contents are stored on  
2     the client computer.

1           8.     The method of claim 7 above, further comprising the step of storing the  
2     filler contents in a repository on the client computer.

1           9.     The method of claim 1 above, wherein the filler contents are stored on a  
2     server computer connected to the network.

1           10.    The method of claim 9 above, further comprising the step of retrieving  
2     the filler content from the server computer connected to the network.

1           11.    The method of claim 1 above, wherein the identifying step is performed  
2     either at the client computer or at a server computer connected to the network

1           12.    The method of claim 1 above, wherein the presenting step further  
2     comprises the step of presenting the filler contents without interrupting the accessing  
3     of the data from the network.

1           13.    The method of claim 1 above, further comprising the step of  
2    deactivating the presenting step when the accessing of the data on the network is  
3    complete.

1           14.    A computer program carrier readable by a computer and embodying  
2    one or more instructions that executable by the computer to perform method steps for  
3    alleviating problems associated with delays in accessing data on a network, the method  
4    comprising the steps of:

- 5           (a) accessing data on a network from a client computer;  
6           (b) identifying when a delay occurs during the accessing step; and  
7           (c) presenting filler contents on the client computer during the identified delay,  
8    wherein the filler contents are customized to a user's taste.

1           15.    An apparatus for alleviating problems associated with delays in accessing  
2    data on a network, comprising:

- 3           (a) a client computer connected to the network;  
4           (b) a browser, executed by the client computer, for accessing data on the  
5    network; and  
6           (c) a filler engine, executed by the client computer, for presenting filler content  
7    on the client computer when a delay occurs in the accessing of the data on the  
8    network, , wherein the filler contents are customized to a user's taste.

1            17.     The apparatus of claim 16 above, wherein the filler engine requests the  
2     filler contents from the content receiver and the content receiver retrieves the filler  
3     contents from a server on the network for the filler engine.

1           19.     The apparatus of claim 18 above, further comprising a content receiver  
2     for retrieving the filler content from a server on the network and for storing the  
3     retrieved filler content in the repository.

1            21.     The apparatus of claim 15 above, wherein the filler engine further  
2     comprises means for initiating use of the filler content when appropriate.

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1           24.     The apparatus of claim 15 above, wherein the filler engine displays the  
2     filler contents without interrupting the accessing of the data from the network.

1           26.     The apparatus of claim 15 above, wherein a server on the network  
2     transmits the delay information through the browser to the filler engine and the filler  
3     engine retrieves the filler contents from the repository in response thereto.



ABSTRACT

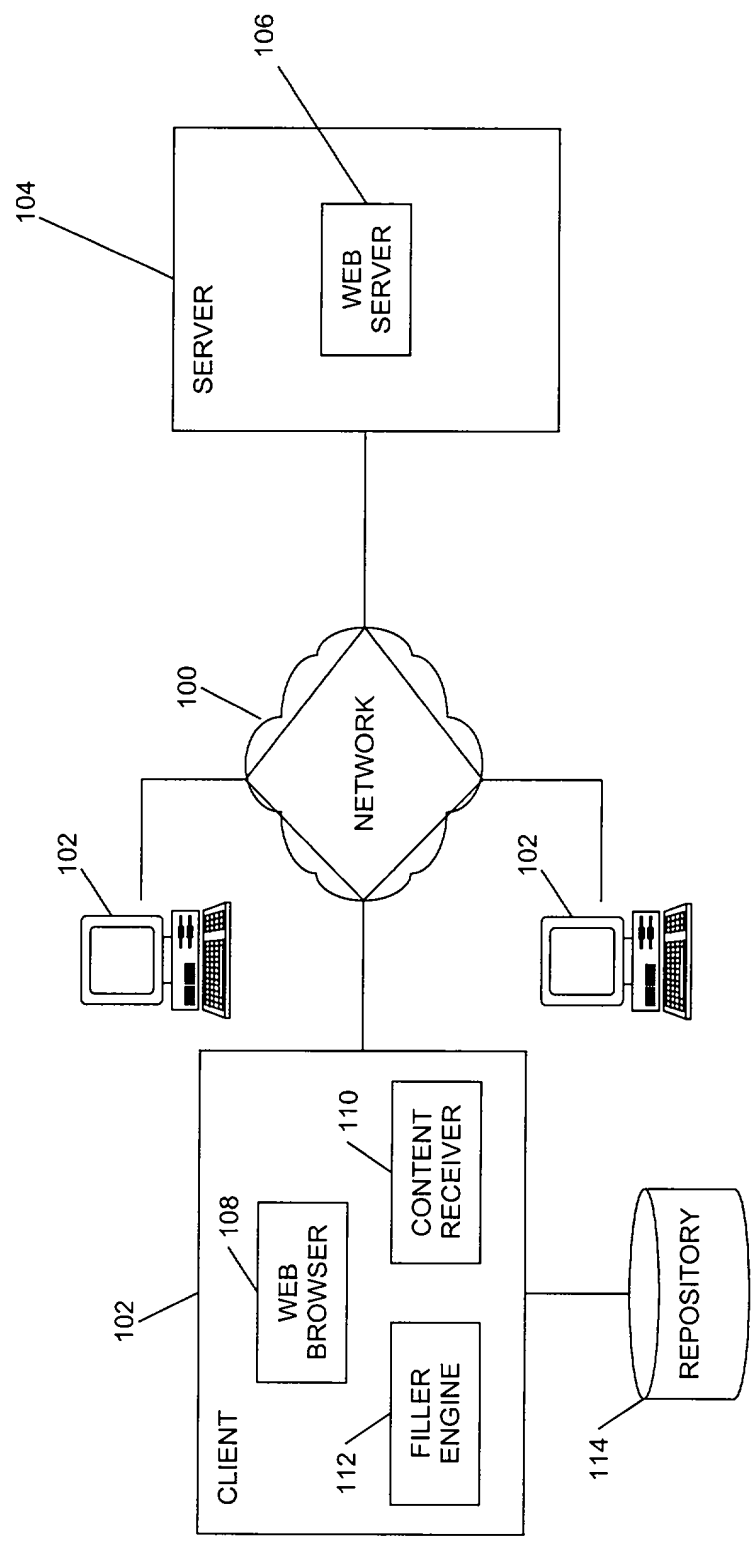
A method, apparatus, and article of manufacture for alleviating problems of long latency or delay periods on the Internet through the presentation of filler content that keeps the user occupied. The cause and extent of the latency or delay may be identified either at a client or server computer and then communicated to the client computer to trigger the presentation of the filler content on the client computer. The filler content may comprise text data, graphics data, audio data, audiovisual data, or other data as desired, and provides just enough distraction to keep the user occupied, while retaining him/her for the completion of the session, transaction, or activity.

10 The filler content may be provided by either a server computer or a client computer, and may be selected automatically by the server computer or the client computer or may be selected manually by the user so that it can be customized based on his/her taste for filler contents. The filler content could also be selected based on predetermined criteria, such as the context of the user's session, transaction, or activity,

15 the data being accessed, etc.

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.  
Denise Ann Beaubier  
(printed name)  
Denise Ann Beaubier  
(Signature)

FIG. 1



200

FIG. 2

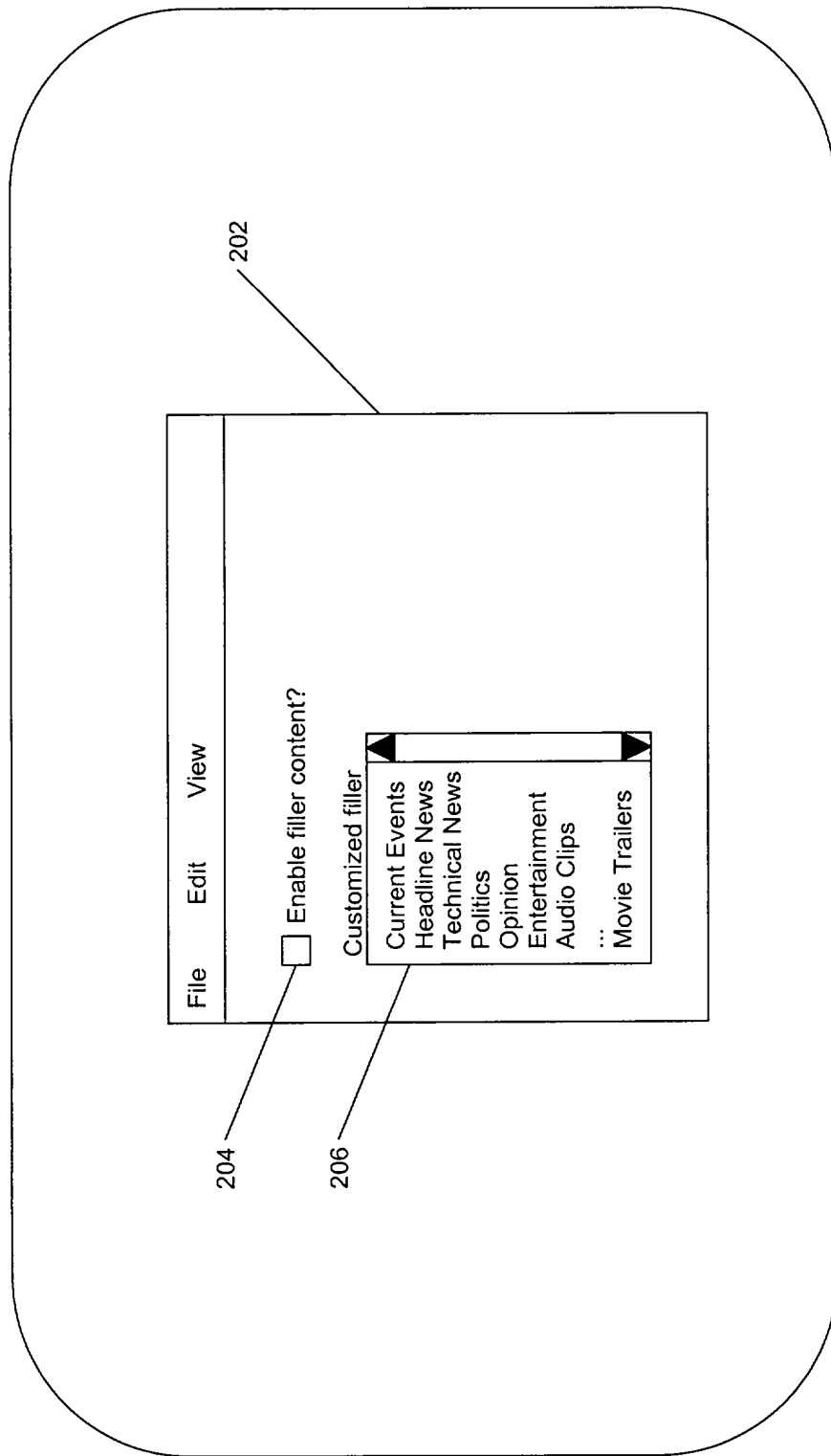


FIG. 3

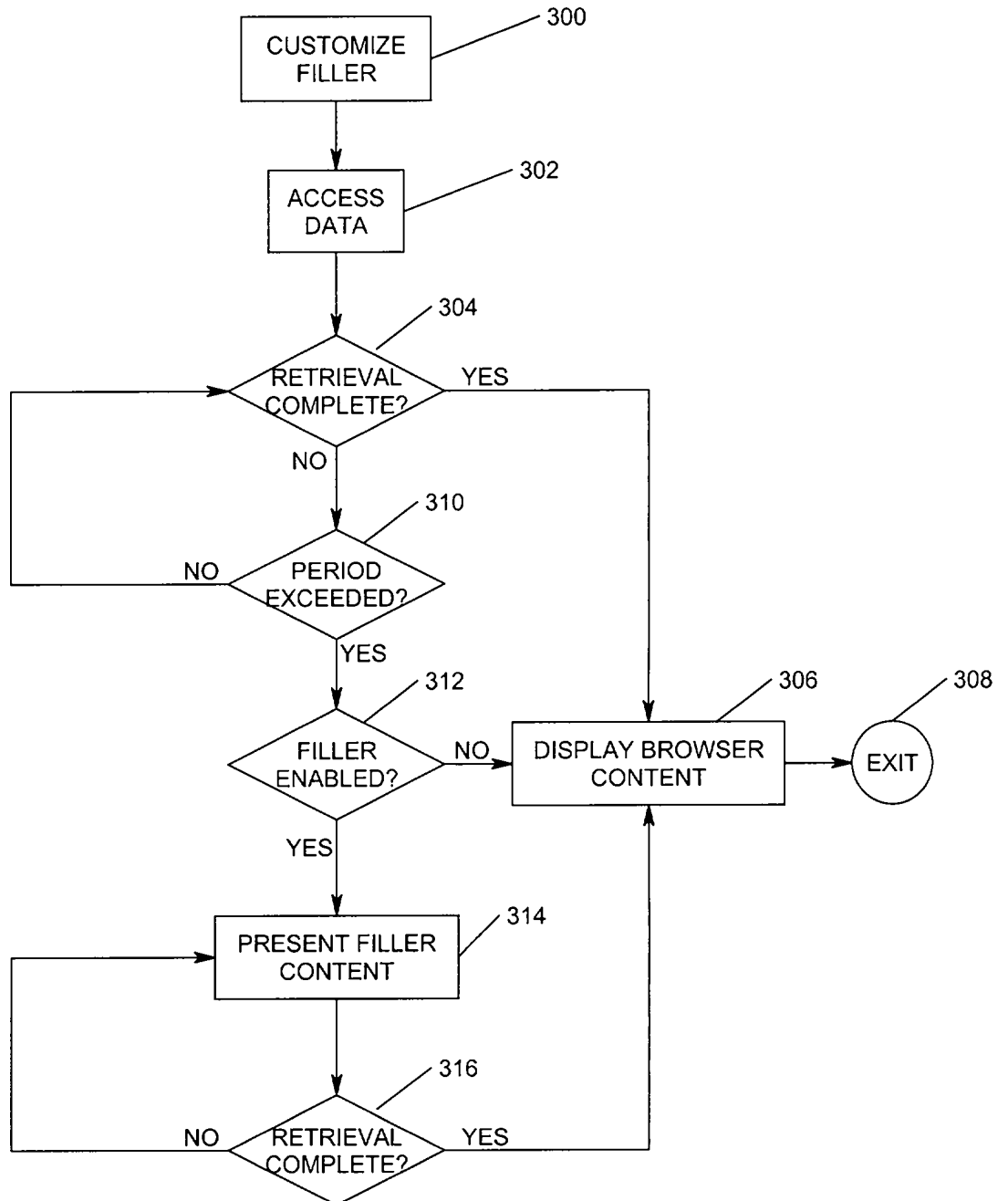


FIG. 4

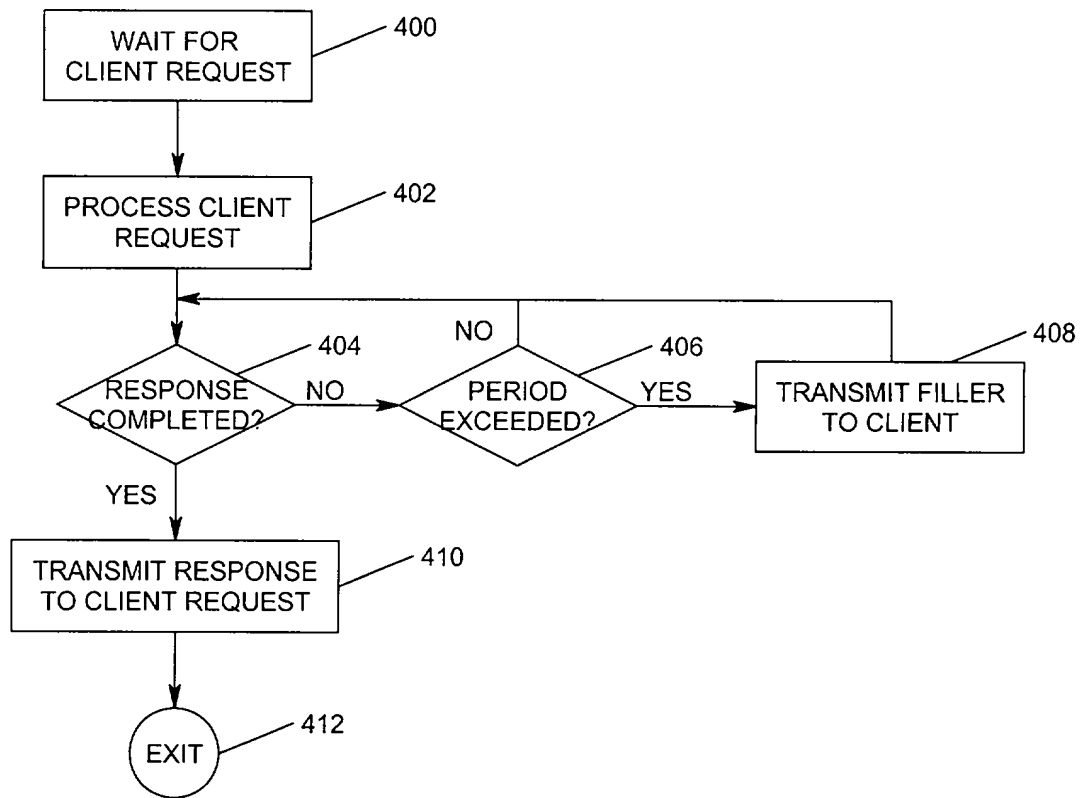
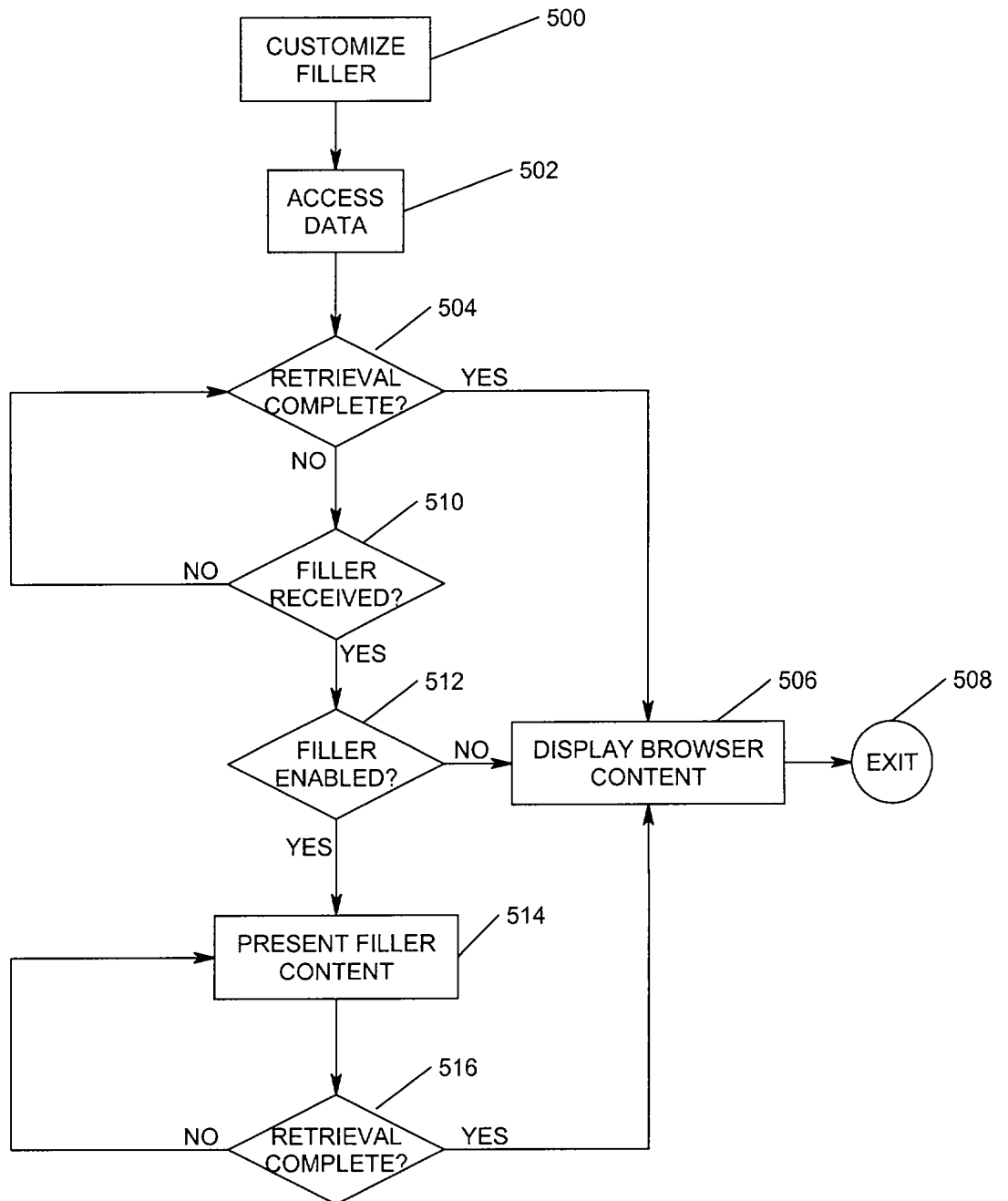


FIG. 5



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My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

# A CUSTOMIZABLE WEB FILLER FOR ALLEVIATION OF NETWORK LATENCY AND DELAY

\_\_\_\_\_ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_  
as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number \_\_\_\_\_  
and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56.

Prior Foreign Application(s): Claimed	Priority Not
--	--------------

(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)
----------	-----------	------------------------

**Provisional Application(s):** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Application Number) (Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 USC §120 of any United States application(s), or §365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 USC §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

(Application Number)	(Filing Date)	(Status - patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Thomas R. Berthold	(#28,689)	John E. Hoel	(#26,279)
Robert B. Martin	(#26,945)	Christopher A. Hughes	(#26,914)
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**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION**////////////////////////////////////  
///**Address all telephone calls and correspondence to:**

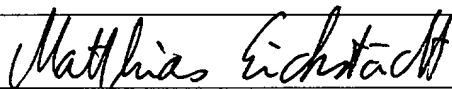
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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**Full name of sole or first inventor:** Matthias (NMI) Eichstaedt

Inventor's signature:



Date: 6/3/1998

Residence: 1330 Shawn Drive No. 2, San Jose, CA 95118

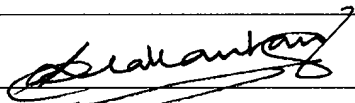
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**Full name of second joint inventor:** Neelakantan (NMI) Sundaresan

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